Petrol pumps at National Highways

2440. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol pumps opened on the National Highways in each State during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of petrol pumps are being illegally operated without proper clearance from Department of Road Transport and Highways along the National Highways;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) the action taken against these petrol pumps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) During the last three years, *i.e.* 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 (April-December, 2007), the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), *i.e.*, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) have opened 1,148 retail outlets (RO) on the National Highways in each State. The State-wise and year-wise details are given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) to (d) All ROs of OMCs on National Highways are operating with valid No Objection Certificate (NOC) issued by the District Authorities and such ROs have valid explosive licence. The guidelines of Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways (MOSRTH) dated 17.10.2003 are observed by OMCs while setting up ROs on National Highways.

Setting of the norms for access to fuel stations, service stations and rest areas along the National Highways is within the purview of the MOSRTH. An inter-ministerial meeting was held in February, 2003 between that Ministry and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in which the need for quickly sorting out the issues raised by the oil companies with regard to application of the (proposed) new norms and guidelines for the existing retail outlets and for new retail outlets was recognized and the relevant issues were discussed in detail. It was agreed at the meeting that the (proposed) new norms for setting up of fuel stations and service stations would be applicable to all those retail outlets commissioned after the issue of the guidelines, while all the existing petrol pumps would follow the Indian Road Congress (IRC) 1983 norms and that for dispensation of case-to-case basis, proposals for relaxation would be examined. It was also agreed based on the discussions that the oil industry and MOSRTH would meet and reconcile the differences with regard to the proposed norms shortly.

The new guidelines were issued by Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways in September, 2003. Subsequently, all the oil marketing companies in the public sector, *viz.*, IOC, HPC and BPC applied to National Highways Authority of India for clearance of their sites. As on date, a total number of 1199 applications are pending for clearance.

Statement

State-wise number of retail outlets set up on National Highways during the last three years (i.e. 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 (April—December, 07)

State/UTs	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Andhra Pradesh	29	13	11
Arunachal Pradesh	1	0	3
Assam	12	6	7
Bihar	28	15	15
Chhattisgarh	22	1	5
Delhi	1	0	0
Goa	1	1	0
Gujarat	39	9	3
Haryana	37	6	10
Himachal Pradesh	18	11	1
Jammu & Kashmir	11	9	1
Jharkhand	26	7	5
Karnataka	43	24	31
Kerala	28	11	9
Madhya Pradesh	19	7	9
Maharashtra	40	16	4
Manipur	2	0	2
Meghalaya	8	2	2
Mizoram	0	2	2
Nagaland	1	2	1
Orissa	53	21	26
Punjab	41	16	14
Rajasthan	37	23	13
Sikkim	2	1	0
Tamil Nadu	38	34	15
Tripura	0	0	0
Uttaranchal	8	8	1
Uttar Pradesh	62	22	29
West Bengal	25	12	17
Union Territories			
Andaman & Nicobar Island	0	0	0
Chandigarh	0	0	0
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
Daman & Diu	0	0	
Delhi	0	0	0
Lakshadweep	0	0	0
Pondicherry	0	1	0
TOTAL	632	280	236